

Check Page 6 to see
who is Taking 5!



DAVID R. CRAIG
Harford County Executive

One Email Yields 2,000 Pounds Of Donations For Hurricane Victims



County Executive David Craig helps load truck with relief supplies collected by three Procurement employees

(Editor's Note: During this season of giving, this package of stories relates the efforts by many Harford County Government employees to reach out to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. They're bound to warm many hearts as they offer simple testimony that people really do care about one another despite distance and circumstance.)

Stacy Rappold, Stephanie Still and Kristy Heim, office mates in Procurement, were among the first to respond to the call for help for the Katrina victims, according to Department Director Debbie Henderson who successfully nominated the trio for the Harford County Government Employee of the Month Award for November.

"Upon learning of the devastation to fellow Americans along the Gulf Coast, Stacy contacted the Maryland Food Bank and along with the help of Stephanie and Kristy organized a drive to collect much needed items for the victims of Hurricane Katrina," Henderson recalled.

Concerned county employees, area churches and civic groups responded to Rappold's county-wide email, according to the nominator.

"On September 19th, less than three weeks after chaos struck the Gulf Coast, the Maryland Food Bank picked up an estimated 2,000 pounds of various items including soap, toothpaste, deodorant, wipes, diapers, baby formula, cleaning supplies, food, etc. for the Katrina victims," Henderson recalled. "These women stepped up and took charge and once again proved what great humanitarians Harford County employees are."

9-1-1 Dispatcher Wins Emergency Number Systems Board Award

By EOC Communications Manager Rick Ayers



911 Dispatcher Noelle Adams

9-1-1 Dispatcher Noelle Adams this year received the Emergency Number Systems Board Award. The board oversees the 9-1-1 systems in the state of Maryland and aids with funding and training to all the counties. Nominated by the Harford County Emergency Operations Center Employee of the Month Committee, Noelle was honored for the actions she took in handling a call back on January 22, 2005 from a frantic mother whose eight-year-old son had gone into cardiac arrest.

"I was very appreciative of the award and glad I was able to help in any way," Noelle said.

Noelle has handled many priority calls such as domestic violence, child birth and unfortunately a couple of tragic calls such as this one. Her strength in handling such stressful and emotional situations is astonishing, according to Ayers.

"When she took the call January 22, the five-year veteran dispatcher without hesitation translated her instructions appropriately. She displayed confidence in her instructions and was able to control the young girl's emotions; keeping her focused and calm. Several times during the conversation the young girl begins to lose concentration and Noelle's quick direction enables the child to regain that focus," he said.

In every situation, Noelle's expertise, confidence and overall demeanor is exceptional. The ability she displays as a call-taker/dispatcher is a true asset to Harford County Emergency Operations. Noelle should be proud of her talent and able to handle traumatic situations with such ease and accuracy.

Office Renovations, Personnel Moves Continue

By James Thatcher

The Planning Committee, chaired by Administration Director Lorraine Costello, has been busy since mid summer with the task of physically locating departments and renovating office areas where needed.

DPW Capital Projects and Land Acquisition have moved from 220 South Main to 18 Office St. to make way for expanded Budget, Risk Management and Public Information offices on the third floor of 220.

DPW Director Bob Cooper and staff have moved to the third floor at 212 S. Bond St. (the Black Box); and by February of next year, Water and Sewer will occupy the newly renovated second floor of 212.

Other plans are underway to physically relocate Treasury along with Economic Development at 220, Information Systems at 45 South Main; and provide new space for Human Resources and Community Services.

Additional plans include DILP expansion and modernization of the Second Floor Conference Room at 220 along with an updated Security Office at 220.

These moves and renovations should be complete by the end of calendar 2006.

EOC Dispatchers Escort Care Packages to Biloxi

By Shift Supervisor Mark Hemler

(Editor's Note: Mike Sherman, Bobbi Zachry and Maria Joseph have been selected as the Emergency Operations Center's November Employees of the month for all the hard work they did with the Biloxi project.)



This is the group that loaded the truck before it left for Biloxi, Mississippi. This truck was filled to the top.

Shortly after the devastating Gulf Coast Hurricanes that practically destroyed a good part of Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, Dayshift Manager Mike Sherman said, "We have to do something."

Mike began his research and made contact with the Biloxi Mississippi Police Department and Officer Daisy Watson after reading about their devastation on the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials website. Officer Watson had Mike almost in tears explaining to him that many of their police officers and 9-1-1 communications personnel had lost everything. Biloxi took a direct hit by Hurricane Katrina and devastated the entire community.

Mike asked Officer Watson if our Emergency Operations Center and our 9-1-1 Center could adopt the Biloxi PD and 9-1-1 Center. Officer Watson was touched and graciously agreed to the adoption and sent Mike a list of items that were needed that included everything from cash and gift cards to diapers,

toilet paper and baby formula.

A large trailer from our 9-1-1 Public Education Division was procured and we began contacting UPS and FedEx to make arrangements to have the items shipped to Biloxi. After contacting all of the major shipping companies, we were told that they could not ship into the area where the items needed to go. That is when Dispatchers Maria Joseph and Bobbi Zachry stepped in and volunteered, on their days off, to make the trip south to Biloxi. The word was out and donations began pouring in. The trailer begins to fill with items from EOC Employees, the Harford County Sheriffs Office Union, Employees of Upper Chesapeake Medical Center, Employees of the Merritt Athletic Club, Harford County Office on Aging, relatives of our employees and a huge pallet of various cleaning items from Clorox in Perryman. We had shovels and rakes as well as towels and blankets.

Harford County Sheriff Office Union President DFC J.J. Minor made several trips to

Home Depot, Target and Wal-mart where he purchased over \$1,700 in gift cards and several thousand dollars in new items for the trip. In a matter of days our trailer was full. Mike Davis, of the Harford County Hazardous Materials Team, provided a second trailer and it too began to fill rapidly.

We were overwhelmed with the generosity of so many people. But who could we get to pull the second trailer? Another setback occurred when we learned that Bobbi's vehicle would need to have electric brakes, which her Durango did not have. Bobbi and Maria began to explore the possibility of renting a large box truck to transport these items.

Calls were made to local truck rental companies. But the truck rental companies had already exhausted their donations to the American Red Cross. But they did offer us a discounted rental of a truck. Even with the discount, a large truck would be too expensive to

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Thanks for Bringing Home the Pumpkins

*By Craig Lanphear
Parks and Recreation*



To all those county employees, who came to the aid of our stranded pumpkins in need of a good home, the Swanfest committee and Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation thanks you!

Your generosity in purchasing some of these pumpkins helped our event offset some of the financial losses we incurred when the event had to be canceled this year. Through your support, we were able to raise \$1,070 which will be used for next year's event.

So please mark your calendars now- Swanfest 2006 is scheduled for October 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Swan Harbor Farm. We look forward to another great event and hope to see you there!

*County employees shop for Swan Harbor pumpkins
at 220.*

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HCG Relief Efforts Continued

rent. Back to square one. We all put our heads together and began calling various county departments to see if they had a large box truck to use. We contacted County Executive David Craig and Chief of Staff Aaron Tomarchio who put the word out. Within a matter of days, Harford County Facilities and Operations Chief, Richard Carr provided the use of their 14- foot box truck for the trip.

This trip would not have been possible without the help and coordination from David, Aaron and Richard Carr and the Facilities and Operations staff.

F&O staff members went above and beyond by not only delivering the truck to the EOC; they also took the time and gave our two dispatcher/drivers a quick lesson on the trucks operation and fueling requirements.

At 3:30 pm on Wednesday, October 5th, an assembly line of EOC Employees and Mike Sherman's two sons began the task of moving everything from the two trailers to the 14-foot box truck.

Two hours later, the truck was loaded from top to bottom and Maria and Bobbi were all

ready for the 1,128 mile trip to Biloxi Mississippi - a trip estimated to take 19 to 20 hours one way. By Thursday evening Maria and Bobbi had found a hotel in Hattiesburg, Mississippi where they would spend the night. Because there were no lights and electricity was hit and miss in Biloxi, they decided to wait until Friday morning to make the delivery.

Bright and early Friday morning, Maria and Bobbi began the one-hour drive to Biloxi. They were met just off of Interstate 110 by Officer Chris DeBack who provided them with a police escort into the City of Biloxi. Only police and city residents were permitted into the City.

As they made their way into Biloxi, Bobbi recalled, "The devastation was indescribable. There was debris and garbage and parts of homes everywhere. Had it not been for their good sense of humor to lighten the somber mood, we probably would have spent our time in tears."

When they arrived at the Biloxi Police Department, they were met by several police officers and fire fighters, who helped unload the

truck in about an hour.

"We cannot comment enough about the warm reception given to us by everyone in Biloxi," Bobbi said. "Some of the officers who lost everything were already filling up on some of the donated items we brought. It was wonderful to see and brought tears to our eyes."

After unloading the truck, two Biloxi police officers volunteered to be Bobbi and Maria's tour guide for the afternoon and what they saw was incredible. Home after home destroyed. Businesses destroyed. Slabs of concrete that, at one time, was the foundation of someone's house now lead to nothing. Only the golden arches stood where once stood a McDonald's Restaurant.

"Complete devastation," Maria said. "It was a life changing experience for me and makes you realize just how fortunate we really are."

Late Friday afternoon, Maria and Bobbi said their good byes to the Biloxi PD and began the long trip north, back to Harford County.

What We Got Here Is a Rescue Convoy

(Editor's Note: This article is a combination of a story by EDC Manager Ernie Crist and Computer Systems Engineer IV John J. O'Neill's submitted EOM nomination. Computer System Engineers Brian Sill and Bill Bloom along with Dave Gosnell and Gary Kiebler, of DPW, will share the Harford County Employee of the Month Award for December.)

What if you had 45 minutes to decide whether to leave your families for two weeks; travel to a disaster area to help strangers who needed it desperately; and who could only provide less than ideal accommodations, would you go?

Four Harford County Government employees selflessly volunteered to go to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi back on September 28th to help city officials rebuild the devastated government infrastructure. Lead by Reed Correll, of the Harford County Health Department, this quartet delivered 17 personal computers and two servers along with 11 vehicles, a tractor/trailer, a Ford street sweeper and Case Front End loader, donated by the Maryland Transportation Authority.

With all that equipment and replacement vehicles, the trip from Hickory Maryland to Bay St. Louis, stretched to two and one-half days.

"The Bay St. Louis assistance effort placed a great deal of stress and strain on all the employees who agreed to make the trip," said O'Neill.

Bill and Brian worked to resolve many communication issues including providing wireless internet and email access to the mayor's office as well as fixing the check printing software so that payroll could be processed and dealt with other problems involved with the restoration of municipal government. After six days, the pair drove seven hours to the Atlanta airport and flew home.

Meanwhile, Gary and Dave were responsible for the safe transport and care of heavy equipment along with delivering water and sewer materials and equipment to the stricken city. After spending four days living and working among hurricane victims, Gary and Dave drove the transport vehicle back to Hickory.

"Like John, I admire the abilities of Brian, Bill, Reed, Gary and Dave," Crist concluded. "They saw the value in helping another government in its time of need and deserve acknowledgement and thanks from everyone."



Convoy members and supporters join for send off photo.



Weddings

Congratulations and best wishes go out to **Elizabeth Blasi**, of **Revenue Collections**, and Chad McGraw, of Parks and Recreation, who got married in Lake Tahoe back on May 17.

July 2 is the day the former **Tonye Young**, an administrative specialist II in the **Law Department**, married Scott Cornbrooks in a Hawaiian-style celebration.

Wedding bells rang out July 9 for **Abingdon Meter Technician I Elgin Taylor** and his wife, Kristina.

Public Works Department Employees **Michael Davies**, of Construction Management Bureau; and **Patricia "Trish" Dietz** of the Highways Bureau, were united in marriage on September 24. Brigitte Hardesty, of the DILP, served as one of the bridesmaids; and Betty Lynch, of Construction Management and chief matchmaker, also participated.

On Behalf of The Troops....

Thanks to all county employees who donated!! We collected over 500 pounds of supplies for our troops and several hundred dollars in shipping costs. These items were delivered to areas in Afghanistan, the town of Tikrit in Iraq, and Baghdad. The troops were very appreciative and send their thanks!!!!

Thanks,
Debra Laubach

Get Ready To Take Five....

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DAVID R. CRAIG

(Editor's Note: A message from the county executive usually appears on Page 2 of County Connection. But since so many of you asked for more information about the new occupant of that office, it was decided that David Craig would be the subject of this edition's Take Five with... Column. This space an ongoing series of interviews with individual Harford County Government employees. With such a large group of dedicated public employees serving the people of Harford County, may this column continue as a means of getting to know one another better.)



1. Describe your job including what you like most about it?

As county executive, I spend a great deal of time meeting people and working on small and large issues to make this a better place to live. I enjoy the many new people I get to meet and the tremendous staff of people who already work for Harford County.

2. Tell us about your family including your pets.

I am the youngest of three children with an older sister and an older brother. My wife, Melinda, and I met at Havre de Grace High School and have been married 34 years. We have three adult children who are all married - Randy, 32, Courtney, 29; and Pami, 27. They have given us six grandchildren - Bridget, 3, Casey, 2, Aidan, 2, Tatum, 18 months, Donovan, 1 and Cecelia, 4 months. We also have a nine-year-old dog - Spencer.

3. What hobbies and/or community activities do you enjoy doing?

I have been active in my church - the Havre de Grace United Methodist Church - in a variety of capacities. I coached soccer for 20 years - from 4-year-old clinics to varsity. I have also been involved with Boy Scouts. Recently, I wrote my first book Greetings from Havre de Grace - a history of that city using historic postcards.

4. Describe a highlight of your life.

The birth of our three children is still tough to beat as a highlight.

5. Tell us about a goal for which you are striving.

My major personal goal right now, besides losing weight in a healthy way, is to be elected county executive in 2006 and 2010.

Harford County Wins 2005 Image Award

(Editor's Note: OED Business Development Associate Eileen Frado submitted the following winning entry of the county's involvement in the McDonald's LPGA Championship this past summer for the Maryland Governor's Tourism Industry's prestigious 2005 Image Award. The presentation was made during the group's annual conference in Ocean City.)



County Executive David Craig and OED's Eileen Frado accept award at Tourism Industry Conference

Harford County is deserving of the 2005 Impact Award for the effort put forth to make the relocation and first year of the McDonald's LPGA Championship in Havre de Grace a huge success, raising \$1.75 million for Ronald McDonald House Charities. The nationally-televised McDonald's LPGA, held at Harford County's beautiful Bulle Rock Golf Course, is one of only three major LPGA annual events. This year's event at the world-class golf course generated \$5.5 million economic impact for the State of Maryland.

Harford County had a significant impact on Maryland Tourism with 97,600 attendees, up 30 percent over the previous year's attendance in Delaware. According to Tournament officials, television viewership was up significantly over previous years with more than one million viewers tuning in on Saturday and Sunday.

With less than one year for the event to transition to Harford County's Bulle Rock Golf Course from the Dupont Country Club in Delaware, the community, volunteer organizations, and businesses rallied together to accomplish the goal. Volunteers from the region totaled 1350, with Harford County citizens making up 58 percent of the volunteers from Maryland.

Harford County citizens, police departments, volunteer fire and ambulance crews, tourism offices, and many Harford County businesses joined forces to make the event successful. Participation came in many forms from individuals volunteering time and/or services to businesses contributing through many different types of sponsorships.

"In all terms, the McDonald's LPGA Championship at Bulle Rock was a major success," said Peter Wilder, director of Business Development for the Championship. "It was a great move, turnout was tremendous and sponsorships were up significantly over the previous year. Further, the golfers were ecstatic about the new venue. The facility, course and service were first class. It had the feel of a world-class major championship."

Hopkins Leaves Sheriff's Office For State PIO Job

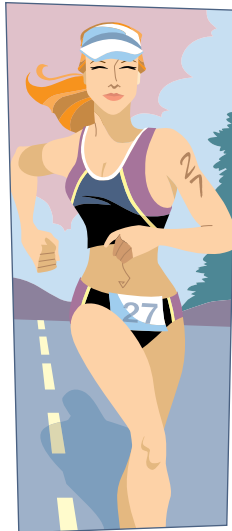
(Editor's Note: The following is an excerpt from a farewell email Former Harford County Sheriff's Office Chief Spokesman Edward "Eddie" Hopkins wrote to various media outlets along with county colleagues and friends.)

"As of Monday, October 3rd, I am retiring from the Harford County Sheriff's Office and will be taking a position in Gov. Ehrlich's Administration as the director of Communications and spokesperson for the Department of Juvenile Services. I have 29.5 years with the Sheriff's Offices and 10 of those as PIO. I have enjoyed working with you in my role here as PIO and will be looking forward to re-establishing my relationships with you in my new position."

Bob Thomas, formerly of the State Fire Marshall's Office, has succeeded Hopkins as the spokesman for the Sheriff's Office.

County Worker Walks 60 Miles In 3 Days

(Editor's Note: Sue Steinen recently participated in the San Diego Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk, a 60-mile journey to raise funds and awareness for breast cancer research, education and free mammography for women, who can't afford the treatment. She was able to walk thanks to the generous support of many of her HCG co-workers and fellow citizens. She provided the following narrative about making it through the long trek and its lasting effects.



My name is Sue Steinen and besides being a secretary in the Central District Office of Parks & Recreation, I am a member of Team Wakham Walkers, who recently returned from the San Diego Breast Cancer 3-Day - an experience I will never forget. Some 4,200 walkers participated in the 60-mile walk; and raised \$10.4 million (\$20,371 from our team) for research, education and free mammograms for women who cannot afford the screening.

My plan was to keep a daily diary of observations, thoughts, etc. However, reality set in the first night - 20 miles is a long way to walk in one day. Multiply that by three days - what was I thinking?

The physical walk itself was challeng-

ing. However, the real challenge was the emotional part of it all. I listened to stories from the women and men, who have faced this devastating disease; and who were on the walk in the hope that there will be a cure. That's what made the walk memorable.

The blisters will heal and the muscles will relax eventually. But the faces and the voices and the stories will linger. Having had a few days to reflect on my journey, without a doubt, I can't wait for next year's walk, and have already signed up to be a "crew" member next year - helping with the event itself.

Thanks to all whose generous support benefited the Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk.



HCG Celebrates Denim Day

*By Lois May,
Office of Budget and
Management Research*

The Office of Budget and Management Research coordinated Denim Day on October 7, 2005. The event featuring a pink bake sale to benefit the Susan G. Omen Breast Cancer Foundation. Kim Spence headed up the effort in memory of her mother, Cheryl Bernhard, who passed away January 21, 2004.

The committee set up a display area in the lobby at 220 where people could make donations in honor of; or in memory of someone, who has or had breast cancer or any other type of cancer.

Some employees participated in the well-attended Race for the Cure on October 1.

Through the generosity of all of our families, friends and co-workers, we were able to double our donation this year to The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation to over \$1,300.

We would like to thank everyone for the continued support of such a worthy cause. With your continued support, we will make a difference and hopefully find a cure.

Passings

The Harford County Government Community was deeply saddened by the recent passing of two of our former colleagues **Emmett Stanley** and **John Poteet**. We offer their families our deepest sympathy.

We also mourn the loss and honor the memory of others related to the HCG Community:

Emergency Operations: **W. Mitchell Vocke's** wife.

Construction Management Bureau: **Bob Kirkwood's** brother.

Highways Bureau: **Mike Silva's** mother.

Planning and Zoning: **Chad Schrodres'** grandmother.

Risk Management: **Kathy Butler's** father.



Highways Grounds Crew Equipment **Operator Charlie Burke** and his wife, Brenda, became parents for the first time May 9 with the arrival of son, Gregory.

Water and Sewer Perryman Administrative Assistant **Dana Basham** and her husband, Ty, greeted Devin on May 26. He joins big brother, Corey. The proud grandparents are DPW's Nancy Ertwine and her husband, Harold.

Revenue Collections **Bill Watson**, and his wife, Stacey, welcomed Georgia Naomi Watson on July 11. The bundle of joy tipped the scales at 8 pounds and measured 19 3/4 inches long.

Maggie Lou Counts, daughter of **Jill Counts**, of **Revenue Collections** and her husband, Chris, made her worldly debut July 17. Waiting at home was Big Brother Zack. The newest member of the Counts family weighed in at 7 pounds, 4 ounces.

Kathy Whitehead, of **Human Resources**, and her husband, John, welcomed Ryan John Stevenson, their second grandson born July 25 to their daughter, Holly, and her husband, Rick Stevenson.

Willa Harkins, of **DILP**, and her husband, Russ, can't stop smiling over the arrival September 22 of their first grandchild born to their youngest daughter, Wendy, and her husband, John E. Campbell. Abbey Ryan Campbell weighed in at eight pounds, 12 ounces and stretched out to 22 inches.

Rita Bittner, of **OED**, and her husband, Dick, now have a quartet of grandchildren. Colin Lee Bittner was born on October 22 to the couple's son, Andrew, and his wife, Mandy. The eight-pound, five ounce boy has an older brother, Tyler.

Retirements

DPW Secretary for Land Acquisition **Carolyn Holbrook** after more than 36 years of service; Director **Jerry Wheeler**, 32 years; **Highways** Crew Chief - Drainage **Lester Lee**, 31 years; **Highways** Clerk Typist II **Carol Frey**, 28 years; **Highways** Grounds Section Equipment Operator **Bill Kelley**, 28 years; **Highways** Sealing Chauffeur Laborer **Harry Morrison**, 19 years; Environmental Inspector **Phil Ober**, 19 years; **Highways** Striping Crew Equipment Operator **Danny Bowman**, 18 years; and Administrative Budget Technician II **Carol DeVor**, 12 years (18 years with Baltimore City)

DILP Electrical Inspector **John Barowski**, 27 years; and Plumbing Inspector **Richard Hubert**, 18 years;

Housing Services Coordinator **Barbara Heller**, 26 years;

Planning and Zoning Planning Assistant **Margaret Gosweiler**, 21 years;

Treasury Accounting Clerk II **Theresa Dickey**, 25 years;

IS Senior Computer Operator **Irma Nelson**, 21 years;

Parks and Rec Accounting Clerk **Lee Nichols**, 21 years;

Administration Director **John O'Neill**, 14 and a half years.

New Members of HCG Community

Administration: Administrative Assistant I **Margaret Wloczewski**

Community Services: In-School Mediator **Katie E. Warner**

Community Services - Harford Transit: Bus Driver **Patryce Campbell**, Bus Driver **Mannie Cordero**, Bus Driver **Charles Wilson**, Administrator **Michael T. Hannan**

County Executive's Office: Administrative Assistant I **Lori Pietrowski**, Secretary **Pam DiMauro**, Chief of Staff **Aaron Tamarchio**

Government and Community Relations: Director **N. Roxanne Lynch**

Harford Cable Network: Executive Director **Kelly A. Java**
Technical Assistant/Clerk **Mark Zervas**

Housing Agency: Clerk Typist **Rita A. Glover**

DILP: Building Inspector **Harold Boling**, Building Services Clerk Typist **Jennifer McHugh**, Plumbing Inspector **G. Scott Schott**

DPW: Construction Management Bureau, Construction Inspector II **Kevin B. Emmerich**, Highways Bureau Chauffeur/Laborer Howard Latham and Chauffeur/Laborer **Thomas Pluff**, Water/Sewer Operations Plant Operator Trainee I **Mark S. Skovira** and Plant Operator Trainee I **William J. Kelly**.

Welcome

Achievements and Honors

Congratulations to **OED** Business Retention Specialist **Rita Bittner**, who recently graduated from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business summa cum laude.

Environmental Enforcement Inspector **Michael Hiob**, of **DPW's** Engineering and Construction Division, recently graduated from the University of Maryland's Institute of Governmental Services. As a member of the

Aberdeen City Council, Hiob attended the session with 63 other fellow politicians, government and law enforcement officials from around the state.

Founded in 1959 as a public service unit of the University of Maryland, the Institute of Governmental Services works with governments and community organizations to enhance government in the state. The institute is Maryland's oldest University public service

organization supporting local officials through education and training, applied research and technical assistance.

Each graduating fellow completed many program hours in a set of core and elective classes designed to meet their professional needs as municipal or county officials in the local government arena.

DILP's Forrest Russell was promoted to Plumbing Inspector III back in August. At the same time, co-worker **George Ensor** received a lateral promotion from a Commercial Inspector to Electrical Inspector III.

Brandice Marie Houck, daughter of **Tommie M. Houck**, of **P&Z**, graduated in December 2004 from York College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. She subsequently passed her Nursing Board Exam and is now a Registered Nurse at Hershey Medical Center in the stepdown ICU.

Facilities, Ops Collects for County Food Pantry

Facilities & Operations employees have placed drop-off boxes for canned goods and non-perishable items for the homeless. The boxes are at Security Stations at 212 (Black Box) and 220, as well as the Facilities & Operations Building on Maryland Route 543. Food items will be collected each day and delivered to the Food Pantry until December 22. Your kind and thoughtful donations will be greatly appreciated by those in need.

For more information, contact Kathy Shepherd at ext. 3212.

Banigan Wins EOM Award

Although she spends most of the workday dealing with engineering and transportation matters in the Public Works Department, Civil Engineer Cheryl Banigan was honored recently as October's Employee of the Month for her work in support of Harford County Tourism.

DPW Chief Engineer Jeffrey Stratmeyer nominated his colleague for the honor which includes a plaque, a commendation and other awards presented by County Executive David Craig.

Whether it was organizing traffic patterns for a national golf tournament such as the McDonald's PGA Championship this past Summer at Bulle Rock or making sure 21st Century Harford County didn't interfere with location shooting of a key period movie, Banigan kept vehicles moving; golfers driving; and cameras rolling.

"(Banigan) did extensive work with the PGA Committee, local law enforcement agencies, the State Highway Administration and the City of Havre de Grace to ensure that the projected 30,000 visitors attending the event were not struck in continuous traffic jams or left to park along the side of any nearby roads," Stratmeyer explained.

Her advance planning and coordination led to a very successful event, in the opinion of her nominator and others, but also alleviated a lot of safety concerns with excessive traffic congestion and with walkers along roads there were not safe.

"At the conclusion of the event, Cheryl unselfishly took it upon herself to write a thank you letter to the county executive in which she identified all of the county Public Works employees who help in the project," Stratmeyer recalled. "Although all of them should be commended for their efforts, it was Cheryl's coordination of all of their specific parts that helped create a very pleasant experience for the organizers of the event."

Production crews for the film Tuck Everlasting recently shot scenes around Harford County. Stratmeyer explained how Banigan rerouted traffic with cooperation from the State Highways Administration and Harford County Highways Bureau so that 21st Century noise won't interfere with filming a movie set in the late 1800s.

"(This) was a great benefit to this project and was greatly appreciated by the site supervisors," Stratmeyer recalled.

Students Sent Off Well Equipped

*By Kids C.A.N. Mentoring Coordinator
Michele Luce*

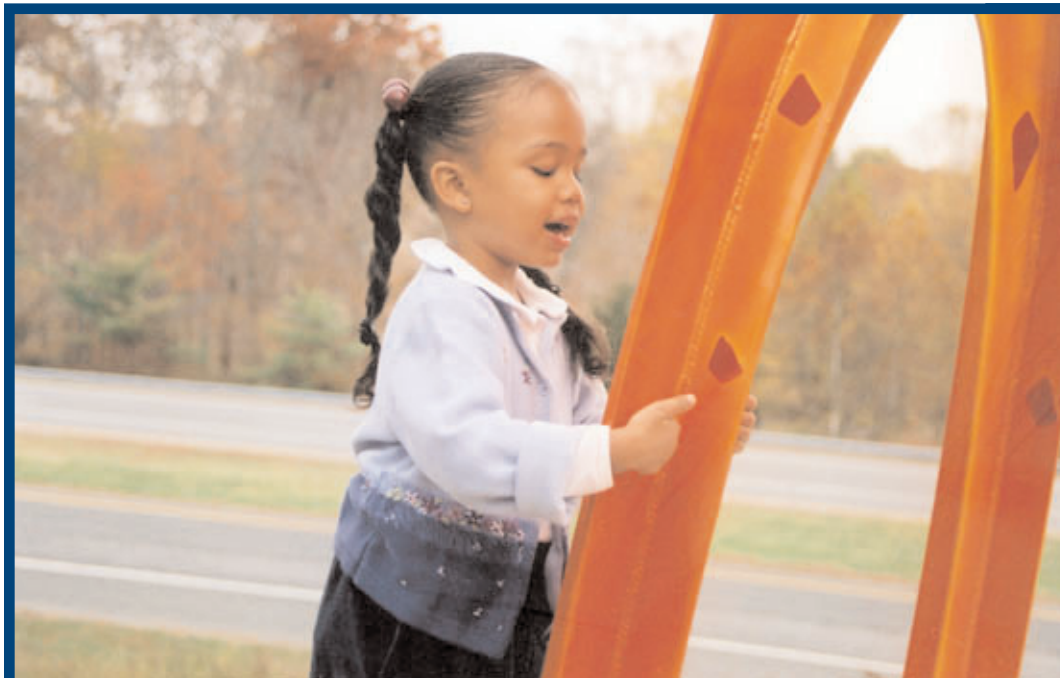
Either by dropping items in collection boxes or at the information desk in Community Services, Harford County Government employees and building visitors were quite generous in making this past September a brighter one for many Harford County students.

Kids C.A.N. collected over 450 pens, pencils, markers and colored pencils. More than 50 bottles of glue and glue sticks were donated. Some 27 binders, 250 folders, 25 notebooks and 35 pairs of scissors were collected.

There were also various loose items including clothes, staplers, pencil pouches, lunch boxes and monetary donations.

I want to thank everyone for their charity.

Here's to the Start of a Beautiful Friendship



*New best
friends meet at
Stacie Lyn
Getz Creative
Playground.*

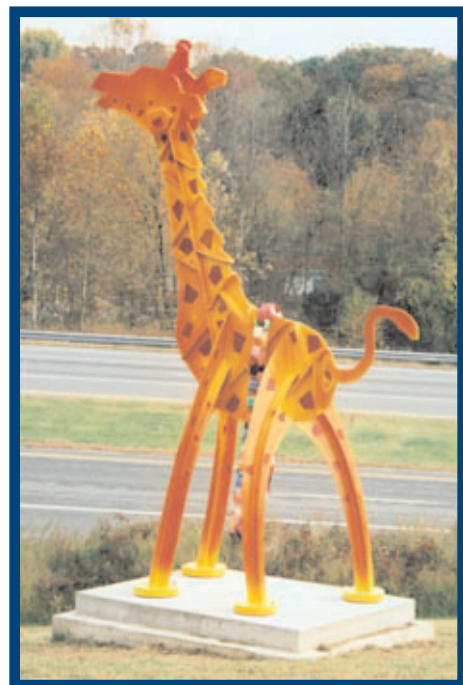
Five-year-old Destiny F., daughter of Parks and Recreation Custodian II Sybil Robertson, formally met her new friend, Mylo the Giraffe, during the recent dedication ceremony at the Lyn Stacie Getz Creative Playground at Maryland Route 24 and Ring Factory Road.

Out of over 200 names submitted from Harford County children, age preschool through Grade 6, Destiny's suggestion was chosen for the 12-foot high orange and red steel sculpture. For her efforts, the Church Creek Elementary kindergartener received a \$1,000 scholarship from Alan and Carolee Getz, who donated the artwork capped with a bobbing head to the playground named in honor of their late daughter.

While other contestants used the towering animal's physical appearance as the basis for their entries; suggested names to go along with the giraffe's African heritage; or entered names to coincide with the playground's location, Destiny conducted a different kind of research. To determine what name she would offer, Destiny relied on her mom to describe what a giraffe looks like since Destiny has never seen a giraffe. She has been blind since birth.

"My mom says a giraffe's neck is a mile high to the sky and we are little (low) standing beside them coming up to their knee," Destiny said on her entry form. "I think a nice name for your giraffe would be Mylo."

All of the children, who participated in the contest, did a good job, Alan and Carolee Getz added. They plan on presenting a stuffed animal giraffe to each and every contestant in the Give the Giraffe a Name Contest.



*Mylo the Giraffe recently took up sentry
duty at the playground.*